



MEETING THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

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Abstract

"The Challenges of Return to Flight"

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There are numerous management challenges in returning the Space Shuttle to flight status. There are technical issues associated with ensuring the foam insulation on the External Tank no longer poses a hazard to the flight vehicle. Other technical challenges include making the shuttle orbiter thermal protection system more robust, providing inspection and on-orbit repair of the thermal protection system, and aging aircraft issues. The 20,000 member shuttle workforce is being utilized to the maximum of its abilities to solve these problems and return to flight status while the International Space Station awaits resupply and the resumption of construction. In addition to these management challenges, a serious change in the decision making culture of the organization has been called for. This presentation will explain the direction that the Space Shuttle Program management is taking on these topics and the progress that is being made toward the next Shuttle flight in March of 2005."



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